

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## ALUMINUM IN MARCH 2004

Domestic primary aluminum production in March was 216,566 metric tons (t), according to data reported to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,986 t, essentially unchanged from that of the previous month but 9% below the rate for March 2003. The revised monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to 82.063 cents per pound in March from 81.5 cents per pound in February, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) was 62.5–64.5 cents per pound at the beginning of March. On March 2, the buying price range increased and narrowed to 64–65 cents per pound before beginning a downward slide that continued through the end of the month. On March 4, the price range decreased to 62–63 cents per pound; on March 9, 61–62.5 cents per pound; on March 15,

60.5–62 cents per pound, and on March 23, the price range decreased to 60–61 cents per pound, where it remained through the end of the month.

### Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased in April to 84.6 cents per pound, continuing an upward trend that began in October 2003. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs fluctuated during April. On April 2, the buying price range increased to 61–63 cents per pound and on April 6, it increased to 62–64 cents per pound. On April 19, the price range increased again to 64–65 cents per pound before returning to the 62–64 cents per pound range on April 22 where it remained through the end of the month.

TABLE 1  
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery <sup>2</sup>			Imports for consumption			Total new supply <sup>3</sup>	Total stocks, end of period <sup>4</sup>
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2003 <sup>p</sup>	2,703	1,770	1,160	2,930	2,870	822	3,690	9,320	1,400
2003:									
March	238	143	89	232	350	71	421	891	1,530
April	225	143	99	242	202	69	272	739	1,470
May	228	150	106	256	265	69	335	819	1,530
June	221	139	102	240	261	66	327	789	1,480
July	226	140	97	236	233	74	307	770	1,480
August	225	153	100	253	194	67	261	739	1,470
September	217	152	98	249	215	70	284	751	1,400
October	224	154	105	259	210	72	281	765	1,380
November	215	147	99	246	233	67	301	761	1,390
December	221	139	86	226	243	64	306	754	1,400
January-March	700	448	273	721	811	204	1,020	2,440	1,530
2004:									
January	216	150 <sup>r</sup>	93 <sup>r</sup>	243 <sup>r</sup>	211	64	274	733	1,430
February	202	153 <sup>r</sup>	84 <sup>r</sup>	238 <sup>r</sup>	288	69	356	797	1,430
March	217	157	99	256	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-March	635	460	276	736	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

<sup>3</sup>Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

<sup>4</sup>Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2  
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM  
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
2003 <sup>p</sup>	1,660	1,230	859	741	897	836	131	118	6	6	3,550	2,930
2003:												
March	140	103	59	50	73	69	10	9	1	1	282	232
April	137	102	75	65	71	66	10	9	1	1	294	242
May	143	106	82	71	74	68	11	10	1	1	311	256
June	143	106	74	64	65	60	11	10	1	1	293	240
July	122	89	75	64	78	73	11	10	(2)	(2)	286	236
August	137	101	71	62	85	79	12	11	(2)	(2)	306	253
September	135	100	70	60	84	79	12	10	(2)	(2)	302	249
October	145	107	80	70	76	71	12	11	(2)	(2)	314	259
November	138	102	75	64	75	70	11	10	(2)	(2)	299	246
December	126	93	61	52	76	71	10	9	(2)	(2)	274	226
January-March	434	322	195	168	213	200	33	29	2	2	876	721
2004:												
January	132 <sup>r</sup>	97 <sup>r</sup>	58 <sup>r</sup>	51	89	83	11	10	(2)	(2)	291 <sup>r</sup>	243 <sup>r</sup>
February	133	98	51 <sup>r</sup>	45 <sup>r</sup>	90	84	11	10	1	1	285 <sup>r</sup>	238 <sup>r</sup>
March	141	103	64	57	92	86	11	10	(2)	(2)	308	256
January-March	407	298	173	154	271	253	33	30	1	1	885	736

<sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN MARCH 2004<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	118,000	141,000	85,800	103,000
Integrated aluminum companies	64,500	64,500	57,300	57,300
Independent mill fabricators	76,500	91,800	71,400	85,700
Foundries	8,860	10,600	7,960	9,550
Other consumers	107	128	107	128
Total	268,000	308,000	223,000	256,000

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4  
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN MARCH 2004<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

	March				January-March <sup>2</sup>	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts <sup>3</sup>	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Solids	17,800	78,600	76,200	20,200	233,000	231,000
Can stock clippings	3,130 <sup>r</sup>	28,300	28,200	3,200	76,600	76,100
Other clippings	4,360 <sup>r</sup>	8,780	8,590	4,540	24,900	25,400
Borings and turnings	5,310 <sup>r</sup>	17,800	17,900	5,140	51,900	51,800
Dross and skimmings	2,670	34,700	34,700	2,650	97,900	97,800
Total new scrap	33,200 <sup>r</sup>	168,000	166,000	35,700	484,000	483,000
Old scrap:						
Used casting, sheet, clippings	11,500	31,600	31,700	11,500	91,500	91,800
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,630 <sup>r</sup>	1,730	1,760	1,600	5,280	5,230
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	11,100 <sup>r</sup>	55,300	60,600	5,830	156,000	162,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	3,000 <sup>r</sup>	7,270	7,080	3,190	21,400	21,400
Total old scrap	27,200 <sup>r</sup>	96,000	101,000	22,100	274,000	281,000
Sweated pig	137	891	891	137	2,660	2,660
Total all classes	60,600 <sup>r</sup>	265,000	268,000	58,000	761,000	766,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes revised data from previous month(s).

<sup>3</sup>Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2004<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons)

	March				January-March <sup>3</sup>	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,300 <sup>r</sup>	1,550	1,700	3,150	5,060	5,460
380 and variations	6,390 <sup>r</sup>	20,000	20,000	6,330	61,100	61,400
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	2,100	4,030	4,060	2,070	12,100	12,100
No. 319 and variations	4,700 <sup>r</sup>	8,580	8,640	4,640	25,800	26,000
F-132 alloy and variations	1,450	2,640	2,640	1,460	8,070	8,000
Al-Zn alloys	40	75	75	40	224	224
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	91	168	168	91	505	505
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	--	191	191	--	573	573
Other <sup>4</sup>	3,790	7,750	7,280	4,250	21,800	22,300
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,300	17,700	17,600	10,400	52,600	52,200
Total all alloys	32,200 <sup>r</sup>	62,600	62,400	32,400	188,000	189,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	7,510	XX	XX	22,600	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	3,230	XX	XX	9,510	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	1,920	XX	XX	3,040	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot <sup>5</sup>	XX	50,000	XX	XX	153,000	XX

<sup>r</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>3</sup>Includes revised data from previous months.

<sup>4</sup>Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

<sup>5</sup>No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2004<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February
Argentina	7,340	10,200	58	129	103	103	7,500	10,400
Australia	2,620	7,200	17	26	--	--	2,640	7,230
Bahrain	--	--	1,350	2,380	--	--	1,350	2,380
Belgium	--	20	956	1,830	--	--	956	1,850
Brazil	7,390	16,600	1,480	2,800	--	--	8,870	19,400
Canada	151,000	285,000	37,600	71,800	25,500	49,400	215,000	406,000
China	2,080	2,130	2,950	6,300	--	77	5,030	8,510
France	15	140	424	921	17	33	456	1,090
Germany	593	3,370	5,910	10,700	11	21	6,510	14,100
Hungary	--	--	229	382	--	--	229	382
Italy	--	--	103	362	--	--	103	362
Japan	41	59	791	1,560	15	20	847	1,640
Korea, Republic of	--	7	130	557	4	29	134	592
Mexico	643	1,240	1,630	3,160	8,440	17,400	10,700	21,800
Netherlands	14	71	87	256	--	--	101	327
Norway	142	268	5	21	--	--	147	289
Russia	86,200	125,000	2,560	5,730	873	1,840	89,600	133,000
South Africa	5,410	6,920	3,400	6,320	--	--	8,810	13,200
Spain	14	14	28	161	--	--	41	175
Sweden	--	--	246	405	43	43	289	448
Switzerland	--	--	138	227	--	--	138	227
United Arab Emirates	8,460	12,400	--	--	--	--	8,460	12,400
United Kingdom	84	173	214	346	501	910	798	1,430
Venezuela	11,200	19,800	2,590	4,100	1,580	3,510	15,400	27,400
Other	4,130	7,230	5,790	12,100	3,890	7,300	13,800	26,700
Total	288,000	498,000	68,700	133,000	41,000	80,700	397,000	711,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN FEBRUARY 2004<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February	February	January-February
Australia	7	9	139	321	--	4	146	334
Belgium	156	175	406	781	--	--	562	956
Brazil	--	2	252	2,580	--	(2)	252	2,580
Canada	10,900	20,300	43,400	82,400	9,820	20,100	64,100	123,000
China	2	20	2,640	5,120	21,000	44,900	23,600	50,100
Czech Republic	--	--	45	50	--	--	45	50
Dominican Republic	--	--	25	50	--	--	25	50
France	(2)	16	510	1,190	--	--	510	1,210
Germany	68	110	368	767	60	122	496	998
Hong Kong	18	29	212	330	2,240	3,830	2,470	4,190
India	91	91	19	48	419	460	529	599
Israel	42	49	179	343	--	2	221	394
Italy	(2)	4	120	264	--	--	120	268
Japan	317	609	468	939	1,300	3,020	2,090	4,560
Korea, Republic of	13	56	1,360	3,240	4,090	6,610	5,460	9,910
Malaysia	--	--	116	229	--	--	116	229
Mexico	8,790	16,700	10,300	20,300	3,960	7,670	23,000	44,600
Netherlands	23	33	65	121	11	29	99	183
Russia	--	(2)	2	15	--	--	2	15
Saudi Arabia	--	--	2,860	3,050	--	--	2,860	3,050
Singapore	31	38	150	270	19	19	201	328
Spain	15	28	45	95	37	37	97	159
Sweden	--	--	25	26	--	--	25	26
Taiwan	--	40	703	1,030	2,850	4,340	3,550	5,410
Thailand	2	2	178	435	40	96	220	533
Ukraine	--	--	--	(2)	--	--	--	(2)
United Kingdom	107	273	829	1,420	25	45	962	1,740
Venezuela	--	--	368	460	--	--	368	460
Other	189	366	1,660	3,230	1,100	2,180	2,950	5,770
Total	20,800	38,900	67,400	129,000	47,000	93,500	135,000	261,000

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.